

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,166

Examiner

Jonathan G. Sterrett

Applicant(s)

GLAZER ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9-8-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-12 and 14-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2001116.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


TARIQ B. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record is included in the Office Action. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Blynn Shideler, Reg. 35,034 on 16 November 2006. See attached interview summary.

2. The claims below are the pending claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A network based scheduling system for developing a schedule for a sponsoring organization, the system comprising:

a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization;

a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer;

a central controller managing a schedule for the sponsoring organization, wherein the central controller operates via a network to

i) contact a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via the network,

ii) supply available appointment times via the network directly to a plurality

of the customers, with the available appointment times that are supplied are determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, whereby the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer, whereby the supplied customer appointment times are a subset of the available appointment times as filtered by the sponsor's parameters for the respective customer and

iii) receive scheduling information via the network directly from a plurality of the customers[.]; wherein the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality of the customers with the available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically illustrated, wherein the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time.

2. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

3. (cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller uses electronic mail to contact a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments and uses the World Wide Web to supply

available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer to a plurality of the customers and to receive scheduling information directly from a plurality of the customers.

5. (Previously Presented) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller contacts a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via off-line communication techniques.

6. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the sponsor parameters for each customer include the availability of sponsor personnel, the availability of sponsor resources, and the time to be allotted for the scheduled appointment.

7. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller supplies the sponsor with a real time master schedule via the network.

8. (Previously Presented) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller contacts a plurality of the customers via the network concerning rescheduling of appointments due to changes in the sponsor parameters.

9. (Previously Presented) The scheduling system of claim 8, wherein the rescheduling of appointments is prompted by customer preferences wherein a

preferential appointment time becomes available and the customer is subsequently notified via the network by the controller.

10. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the sponsor is a medical professional.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for developing a schedule for a sponsoring organization comprising the steps of:

providing a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization, a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer, and a central controller creating a schedule for the sponsoring organization;

contacting via an electronic network a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments;

supplying via the electronic network available appointment times to a plurality of the customers, with the available appointment times determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, whereby the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer; whereby the supplied customer appointment times are a subset of the available appointment times as filtered by the sponsor's parameters for the respective customer and

receiving scheduling information via the electronic network directly from a plurality of the customers[.]; wherein the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality of the customers with the available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically illustrated, wherein the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the network is the World Wide Web.

13. (cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller uses electronic mail to contact a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments and uses the World Wide Web to supply available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer to a plurality of the customers and to receive scheduling information directly from a plurality of the customers.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller contacts a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via off-line communication techniques.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the sponsor parameters for each customer include the availability of sponsor personnel, the availability of sponsor resources, and the time to be allotted for the scheduled appointment.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller supplies the sponsor with a real time master schedule via the network.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller contacts a plurality of the customers via the network concerning rescheduling of appointments due to changes in the sponsor parameters.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the rescheduling of appointments is prompted by customer preferences wherein a preferential appointment time comes available and the customer is subsequently notified via the network by the controller.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the sponsor is a medical professional.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-20** are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach, inter alia, a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization; a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer; a central controller managing a schedule for the sponsoring organization, where the central controller operates via a network to contact a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via the network, supply available appointment times via the network directly to a plurality of the customers, with the available appointment times that are supplied are determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, where the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer, where the supplied customer appointment times are a subset of the available appointment times as filtered by the sponsor's parameters for the respective customer and receive scheduling information via the network directly from a plurality of the

customers, where the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality of the customers with the available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically illustrated, where the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time,

as recited in independent **Claims 1 and 11**.

The novelty of the invention is in the combination of the limitations cited in independent **Claims 1 and 11** and not in any specific individual claim limitation.

The prior art reference most closely resembling the applicants claimed invention is Detjen.

While Detjen discloses:

a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization;

a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer;

a central controller managing a schedule for the sponsoring organization, wherein the central controller operates via a network;

supply available appointment times via the network directly to a plurality of the customers, with the available appointment times that are supplied are determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, whereby the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer and

receive scheduling information via the network directly from a plurality of the customers,

Detjen lacks:

where the central controller operates via a network to:

contact a plurality of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via the network,

supply available appointment times via the network directly to a plurality of the customers,

where the supplied customer appointment times are a subset of the available appointment times as filtered by the sponsor's parameters for the respective customer,

where the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality of the customers with the available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically illustrated, where the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time.

as recited in **Claims 1 and 11** .

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

JP 09265503 A by Okubo discloses a medical appointment system for patients.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should


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JGS



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